

CLAIMS

5 1. An apparatus in which channel guide information containing a
respective program description for programs is processed to form a channel
guide, comprising:

Control means for displaying concurrently a list of program descriptive
fields and an entry for entering a text string;

10 user control means for allowing a user to select a program descriptive
field from the list of program descriptive fields and to enter a text string having
one or more user-selectable characters in the entry;

the control means for performing an alphabetical sort of the programs
based on the entered text string and the selected program descriptive field, and
15 for locating a first program with the respective program description in the
selected program description field matching the entered text string.

20 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the control means further causing
the alphabetically sorted programs to be displayed starting with the first
program.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the program descriptive field may
relate to title, star, director, or context of the programs.

25 4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the control means performs the
alphabetical sort of the programs by first moving any sentence articles of the
respective program description to the end of the respective program description.

30 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein if the control means fails to locate
the first program having a program description matching the entered text string,
the next program on the alphabetical sorted list immediately following the
position where said first program would have been located is selected instead.

6. A method for processing channel information containing a respective program description for programs, comprising the steps of:

displaying concurrently a list of program descriptive fields and an entry

5 for entering a text string;

selecting a program descriptive field from the list of program descriptive fields and entering a text string having one or more user-selectable characters in the entry;

10 performing an alphabetical sort of the programs based on the entered text string and the selected program descriptive field; and

locating a first program with the respective program description in the selected program description field matching the entered text string.

15 7. The method of claim 6 further comprises the step of displaying the alphabetical sorted list of programs starting with the first program.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the program descriptive field may relate to title, star, rating, director or content of the programs.

20 9. The method of claim 6 wherein the performing step further comprises the step of first moving any sentence articles of the respective program description to the end of the respective program description.

25 10. The method of claim 6, wherein if the locating step cannot locate the first program matching the entered text string, the next program on the alphabetical sorted list immediately following the position where the first program would have been located is selected instead.

30 11. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of if another program descriptive field is selected from the list of the program descriptive fields, performing an alphabetical sort of the programs based on the entered text string and the another selected program descriptive field.

12. An apparatus in which channel guide information containing a
respective program description for programs is processed to form a channel
5 guide, comprising:

a controller for displaying concurrently a list of program descriptive fields
and an entry for entering a text string;

a user entry device for allowing a user to select a program descriptive
field from the list of program descriptive fields and to enter a text string having
10 one or more user-selectable characters in the entry;

the controller, in response to the user entry device, alphabetically sorts
the programs based on the entered text string and the selected program
descriptive field, and for locating a first program with the respective program
description in the selected program description field matching the entered text
15 string.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the controller further causing the
alphabetically sorted programs to be displayed starting with the first program,
concurrently, with the list of program descriptive fields.